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- KORKISCH, H. *Kommentar zum Pensionsversicherungsgesetz samt allen Verordnungen Verwaltungsgerichtshofurtheilen und dem neuen Statute der Pensionsanstalt.* (Vienna: Manz. 1911. Pp. viii, 281. 3.45 m.)
- KROSTA, B. *Über den Begriff Versicherung und zu den Möglichkeiten der wirtschaftlichen Entwicklungsformen des privaten Versicherungswesens in Deutschland.* (Berlin: Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht. 1911. Pp. vii, 141. 2.60 m.)
- LANDIS, A. *Life insurance problems confronting fraternal benefit societies in reference to valuation and readjustment and their relation to proposed legislation, with lessons from English friendly societies.* (Nashville, Tenn.: A. Landis. 1911. Pp. 124. \$1.50.)
- LAPORTE, W. *Das Problem der Arbeiterpensionskassen und seine rechtlichen und sozialen Konsequenzen.* (Jena: Fischer. 1910. Pp. viii, 89.)
- LOEWENFELD, P. *Pensionskassen und Arbeitsvertrag.* Pt. 1. (Munich: Schweitzer. 1911. Pp. vii, 104. 2.80 m.)
- MICHY, H. *L'assurance pour compte d'autrui et l'assurance complémentaire de responsabilité contre les risques d'incendie: étude théorique et pratique.* Preface by Ch. Lyon-Caen. (Paris: Larose et Tenin. 1911. 6 fr.)
- OLIVER, T. and BELGER, H. *Workmen's insurance in Germany. Its rise, progress and prospect.* (London: W. H. Smith. 1910. 3d.)
Reprinted from the *Yorkshire Post*.

Pauperism and Charities

- English Poor Law Policy.* By BEATRICE and SIDNEY WEBB.
(London: Longmans, Green and Company. 1910. Pp. xiii, 379. 7s. 6d.)

This book is another testimonial to the remarkable industry of Mr. and Mrs. Webb. The first five chapters, over two thirds of it, are practically the report made in 1907 to the Royal Commission on the Poor Law, of which Mrs. Webb was a member. The purpose is to gather together the leading data from a mass of poor law orders, circulars and reports, to show how the poor law of 1834, with its amending acts of note, has really been administered. The poor law left much to the discretion of the central authorities, the Poor Law Commissioners and their successors, the Poor Law Board and the Local Government Board. Only a small part of the history is to be found in legislation. That administration has varied much is brought out in this book. A very interesting example, touching the type of need which was especially before

the commission of 1834, that of the able-bodied laborer, is the difference between the orders, applied notably in different parts of England, which on the one hand prohibited out-door relief generally, and which, on the other hand, allowed it with a labor test. Also, in orders of the central poor authorities, are noted some departures from the intent of 1834. Because of such variations and changes of policy within the field of poor law, beside tendencies to meet distress outside that law, the Webbs say that any poor law, or law of destitution, is hopeless.

The three quarters of a century since 1834, a time of revolution in many ways of human thought and action, has brought plain modifications in the treatment of the needy by public aid, some of which seem a radical departure from 1834. These changes are to be reckoned with. Differences of opinion arise as to their significance. The Webbs see plainly that all point to a continuous process toward a radically new basis of public aid, when relief, quickly obtainable, will make not only for cure but for prevention of need. The last third of this book summarizes clearly and interestingly that new basis, from the minority report of the Royal Commission, and compares it with the majority report. Readers who wish to compare those reports will obviously go direct to the majority for their say. English students and workers in the field of public aid, as the signers of the majority report, who do not agree with Mrs. Webb, the minority leader, freely grant that conditions and remedies of 1909 are not identical with conditions and remedies of 1834; but they believe that reasonable order and a progressive policy can be brought into even such a complicated matter as public relief of need, without letting the pendulum of public opinion swing to what seems to them a dangerous extreme. The contest in England is on; it is of dramatic interest to persons concerned in poor relief, the world over.

JEFFREY R. BRACKETT.

Socialism and Co-operative Enterprises

The Nation as a Business Firm: An Attempt to Cut a Path Through Jungle. By W. H. MALLOCK. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1910. Pp. xi, 268. \$1.00.)

In this volume Mr. Mallock gives the results of a study of the distribution of incomes in the United Kingdom, based chiefly upon